Demands of Postmen of Bombay

3956. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum was submitted on October 31,1991 to the Chief Postmaster General , Maharashtra Circle, Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Memorandum was received on 30th October, 1991.

(b) The memorandum contains items on mail box system, non supply of uniform item to newly recruited officials, dilapidated condition of post office building and regularisation of daily rated overaged employees.

(c) The Governments reaction there to is constructive.

Status of Prasar Bharati Corporation

3957. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in considering the introduction of competition in electronic media, the status of the proposed Prasar Bharati Corporation according to Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, has been deliberated by Varadan Committee;

(b) if so, the result of the deliberation;

(c) whether Government is committed to set up Prasar Bharati Corporation and what is the relationship between Broadcasting Council according to Prasar Bharati Act and Broadcasting Council for granting licences as proposed by Varadan Committee; and

(d) whether Prasar Bharati Corporation will be set up for taking over Doordarshan and A.I.R. before electronic media is laid open to competition?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). No specific recommendation has been made by the Committee about the status of the Prasar Bharati Corporation.

(c) and (d) Many essential formalities need to be completed and various steps taken before the Prasar Bharati can be established. This Ministry is seized of the issue. The Committee has recommend the setting up, through suitable legislation, of an independent authority comprising of eminent public men with unimpeachable probity which could be called the Broadcasting Council of India. The committee has also recommend that the provisions regarding the Broadcasting Council be appropriately taken out of the Prasar Bharati Act and made part of the new legislation which would entrust to the new authority (Broadcasting Council of India) among other things task of granting broadcasting licences.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Electronic Exchanges in Bhavnagar .

3958. DR. MAHAVIRSINGH HARISINGHJI GOHIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Bhavnagar and since when;